



U Serve Utah

Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism

The **purpose** of the Utah Commission on Service and Volunteerism is to enable individuals, communities and organizations in Utah to benefit from the service, power, skills, and passion of volunteers.

Our **mission** is to strengthen Utah communities through the power of service and volunteerism.

Our **vision** is vibrant, productive communities with active, engaged citizens.

Minutes

COMMISSION MEETING

September 25, 2014

2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Capitol Building Board Room

ATTENDEES

Commissioners

Brian Somers

Diane Lewis

Jake Murakami

Kris Hamlet

Sue Okroy

Erica Dahl

Ron Humphries

Jeanne Hall

Bill Crim

Dwight Rasmussen

Anne O'Brien

Mark Thomas

Staff

LaDawn Stoddard

Rochelle Runge

Pearl Wright

Katie Barlow

Mandee Curtis

Lani Nisbet

Guests

Chris Conard from Playworks

Amy Daley, CNCS

Jane Quist

Laura Rothlisberger

WELCOME/GOVERNANCE

Motion to approve July Board Meeting Minutes by Ron Humphries, seconded by Jeanne Hall. Vote carried by all.

LaDawn Stoddard discussed staffing changes for UServeUtah. Lani Nisbet has been hired as our Community Engagement Coordinator. Pearl Wright will be transitioning part time as the social media manager. Mandee Curtis has been hired as a part time special projects intern. Don Willie and Tracy Bodily have accepted positions in new places of work. Don Willie will be working on a very limited part-time basis until a replacement is hired and trained. The Disaster Service and National Service coordinator positions will be posted for application in the coming days.

Funding Updates: The Commission has been notified that they will be receiving funding from the Volunteer Generation Fund grant in the amount of \$110,000 a year for three years. UServeUtah also received funding for the Pacific Cluster Conference in the amount of \$50,000 to serve as the host city for the conference in Spring 2015. The Commission was required to submit to the Corporation on National and Community Service an amendment in the form of a logic model to the application, which follows very closely with the current strategic plan. 2:20 pm

Amy Daly from Corporation for National and Community Service discussed changes and priorities at the Corporation, which include growth of national service and partnerships, and other service corps programs.. Amy will also serve as the program officer for the Pacific Cluster Training Conference and will provide training and technical assistance as well as promotion for the conference.

Rochelle Runge presented an update to the 20th anniversary. The focus areas for August and September are Education and Disaster Services. The website highlights organizations that work around these focus areas and directs the public to various ideas on where they can volunteer in these areas. It also promotes the impact many of these organizations have had in their focus areas.

AMERICORPS PROGRAM: PLAYWORKS

Playworks is a nonprofit that works with low income elementary schools with a goal to help every child thrive socially, emotionally, and academically in school. The founders of Playworks created a program where energetic young adult AmeriCorps members engage children in safe, meaningful play activities during recess in an effort to reduce bullying and help children transition back to the classroom quicker to affect achievement in the classroom. They also engage youth in leadership programs as well as after school sports programs. A short promotional video of Playworks was shown. Ten AmeriCorps members serve at nine schools approximately 45 hours a week, with one AmeriCorps member able to float from school to school as needed. Some measurable impacts Playworks has found from their presence in schools is an increase in students feeling safe at school, bullying being reduced, increased physical activity in children, decreased office referrals for discipline, and more focused students inside the classroom, with teachers recovering an average of 21 hours of instructional time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Service – Kris Hamlet

The National Service Committee reported that UServeUtah conducted site visits with five Utah AmeriCorps programs to ensure they are in compliance and on track to meet performance measures. Programs visited include: Playworks, Red Cross, Read.Graduate.Succeed, Mentoring for Success and Habitat for Humanity. The reports showed a few programs with minor issues, but most have been provided with after action support.

The AmeriCorps 20th anniversary event hosted a gathering commemorating 20 years for AmeriCorps in Utah. A grounds maintenance service project was held with approximately 180 AmeriCorps members at Red Butte Gardens with a BBQ to follow. On September 12, 400 National Service participants and alumni participated in a national swearing-in event, networking activities, as well as development workshops.

Spring 2015 Pacific Regional Cluster Conference will be held in Utah around the last week of March 2015. A date is expected to be established in the coming weeks. UServeUtah will provide all of the coordination of the conference.

Disaster services – Diane Lewis

UServeUtah hosted three Spontaneous Volunteer Management trainings in St. George, Provo, and Layton with many participants showing a need for training prior to the course and a significant improvement in knowledge after the training. The next and final training for 2014 will be held in Logan on October 10. Commissioners were invited to attend this training.

At the Spontaneous Volunteer Management courses, many communities have expressed a need for training on how to handle donations after a disaster. UServeUtah will be customizing a FEMA training that addresses this need and providing trainings in 2015. Curriculum will be developed once the Disaster Service Coordinator position is filled. Trainings in Utah will be held in the following cities with tentative dates: Washington City (March), Saratoga Springs (June), North Salt Lake (September), and Brigham City (November) in 2015. Spontaneous Volunteer Management trainings will tentatively be held in Moab (Feb), Orem (May), Richfield (July) and Heber City.

Community Engagement – Bill Crim

The Community Engagement Committee began a process to find an appropriate volunteer matching software program that can be used on a statewide level in concert with all of the state universities and volunteer connector organizations. Conversations with these constituents have been held to understand what the common needs of various organizations will be. Five software packages provided demonstrations. A decision is expected to be made by a sub-committee of commissioners and representatives of universities and connector organizations by the end of 2014.

Philanthropy Day will be held on November 13. UServeUtah extended an invitation to commissioners to help fill a table at the event. The Heart and Hands award, which was previously housed under Utah Philanthropy Day, will be sponsored by UServeUtah. Because UServeUtah no longer has the \$30k annual conference, and because UServeUtah has become a partner of Philanthropy Day this year, it was suggested that UServeUtah use conference funding to support Utah Philanthropy Day in the amount of \$5000.00.

Motion to provide a \$5000.00 sponsorship to Utah Philanthropy Day was made by Erica Dahl. Anne O'Brien seconded the motion. Vote carried by all.

Commissioners were invited to promote the Share Your Service story and Pay it Forward cards. A suggestion was made that an incentive be provided to encourage more engagement with the Share Your Service Story, especially among colleges and universities. Some possible ideas included a drawing, gift cards, donating to a cause chosen by the winning school, etc. Erica Dahl also suggested a staff member give a presentation promoting this initiative to a Junior League board meeting, or the volunteer leadership at Intermountain Health Care.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Ron Humphries . Seconded by Jeanne Hall. Motion carried by all.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- OCT 15TH AMERICORPS PROGRAM DIRECTOR TRAINING
- NOV 13TH UTAH PHILANTHROPY DAY EVENT
- NOV 20TH NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

ADDITIONAL FOLLOW-UP

Erica Dahl will provide contacts for staff members to give a presentation promoting this initiative to a Junior League board meeting, or the volunteer leadership at Intermountain Health Care.